WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for detecting the presence or amount of *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acids in a test sample, comprising:

(a) amplifying *FlaA* nucleic acids in *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acid sequence if present in said sample using a pair of oligonucleotide primers having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) hybridizing said amplified *FlaA* nucleic acids with an oligonucleotide probe having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said probe is conjugated to 6-carboxyflroresceine (FAM) and 6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA), in the presence of an enzyme that cleaves said probe when said probe hybridizes to said HBV nucleic acid; and

(c) detecting a signal from said probe, wherein said signal indicates the presence or amount of *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acids in said test sample.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein human placental nucleic acid are introduced into said test sample and amplified using the pair of oligonucleotide primers to produce human placental amplicons.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said human placental amplicons are hybridized to a control oligonucleotide probe having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the control oligonucleotide probe is conjugated to 2'-chloro-5-fluoro-7'-phenyl-1,4-dichloro-6-carboxyfluorescein (VIC) and 6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA).

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said test sample is selected from the group consisting of serum, blood, plasma, cerebral spinal fluid, synovial fluid, and urine.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acids are purified from said sample prior to said amplifying step (a).

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said human placental nucleic acid is introduced into said test sample prior to purifying said *Borrelia burgdorferi* nucleic acids from said sample.